IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 4 and ADD new claims 19-24 in accordance with the following:

1.　　(currently amended)　An image correction apparatus which corrects an image based on preference of a user, comprising:

a user preference obtaining unit outputting images at two or more correction levels as corrected images for a given image, ~~and~~

allowing <u>a</u>~~the~~ user to select a preferred corrected image<u>,</u>~~; and~~

<u>deriving a preference data set of the user according to a result of the user's selection and the given image and storing the preference data set; and</u>

~~a~~ <u>an</u> image correction unit<u>, whenever required to correct any image, automatically</u> correcting <u>the image and using the stored preference data set to correct further the image resulting from the automatic correction</u>~~an image to be corrected which is different from the given image based on a selection result from the user~~.

2.　　(original)　The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said given images are a plurality of images, and said user preference obtaining unit outputs images at two or more correction levels corresponding to the plurality of given images to allow the user to select preferred corrected images.

3.　　(original)　The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said plurality of given images are different in type, and said user preference obtaining unit allows the user to selects preferred corrected image corresponding to each type.

4.　　(currently amended)　<u>An image correction apparatus which corrects an image based on preference of a user, comprising:</u>~~The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein~~

<u>a user preference obtaining unit outputting images at two or more correction levels as corrected images for a given image, and allowing the user to select a preferred corrected image;</u>

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<u>and</u>

<u>a image correction unit correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the given image based on a selection result from the user; and</u>

<u>wherein</u> said given image is stored in advance in an image correction unit as an image of quality generally preferred by a large number of users.

5.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a user specified image input unit receiving a user specified image as the given image.

6.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said user preference obtaining unit requests a user to input a user identifier for identification of the user, and allows each user to select a preferred corrected image.

7.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein: said user preference obtaining unit prints and outputs images at two or more correction level; and said apparatus further comprises a image printing unit printing and outputting an image to be corrected which has actually been corrected by said image correction unit.

8.   (original) An image correction apparatus which corrects an image based on preference of a user, comprising: a user corrected image obtaining unit outputting a predetermined image, and allowing a user to correct the output image; and an image correction unit correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the predetermined image based on an correction result of the user.

9.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined images are a plurality of images, and said user corrected image obtaining unit allows a user to correct each of the plurality of output images.

10.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said plurality of predetermined images are images of different types, and said user corrected image obtaining unit allows a user to correct each of the images of the different types.

11.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising

a user specified image input unit receiving a user specified image as the predetermined image.

12.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

an image of quality generally preferred by a large number of users is stored in said image correction apparatus.

13.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

said user corrected image obtaining unit requests a user to input an identifier for identification of the user, and allows each user to correct an output image.

14.   (original) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising

a user corrected image printing unit performing a trial printing process at an instruction of a user on an correction result obtained from the predetermined output image.

15.   (original) An image correcting method for correcting an image based on preference of a user, comprising:

outputting images at two or more correction levels as corrected images for a given image, and allowing a user to select a preferred corrected image; and

correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the given image based on a selection result from the user.

16.   (original) An image correcting method for correcting an image based on preference of a user, comprising:

outputting a predetermined image, and allowing a user to correct the output image; and

correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the predetermined image based on an correction result of the user.

17.   (original) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform the steps of:

outputting a predetermined image, and allowing a user to correct the output image; and

correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the predetermined image based on an correction result of the user.

18.   (original) An image correction apparatus which corrects an image based on preference of a user, comprising:

user preference obtaining means for outputting images at two or more correction levels as corrected images for a given image, and allowing a user to select a preferred corrected image; and

image correction means for correcting an image to be corrected which is different from the given image based on a selection result from the user.

19.   (new) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

said given images are a plurality of images, and said user preference obtaining unit outputs images at two or more correction levels corresponding to the plurality of given images to allow the user to select preferred corrected images.

20.   (new) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein

said plurality of given images are different in type, and said user preference obtaining unit allows the user to selects preferred corrected image corresponding to each type.

21.   (new) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising

a user specified image input unit receiving a user specified image as the given image.

22.   (new) The apparatus according to claim 4; wherein

said user preference obtaining unit requests a user to input a user identifier for identification of the user, and allows each user to select a preferred corrected image.

23.   (new) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

said user preference obtaining unit prints and outputs images at two or more correction level; and

said apparatus further comprises a image printing unit printing and outputting an image to be corrected which has actually been corrected by said image correction unit.

24.   (new) A process of adjusting an image according to the preferences of several users, comprising:

displaying adjusted images to each of the users where the adjusted images are an original image to which different levels of adjustment have been applied;

allowing each of the users to select one of the adjusted image as preferred adjusted image;

storing adjustment parameters associated with the preferred adjusted image for each of the users; and

automatically adjusting subsequent images for each user responsive to the adjustment parameters for that user.